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GOVT BANS EXPORT OF NON-BASMATI WHITE RICE TO CONTROL RETAIL PRICE

The move is aimed at boosting domestic supply and keeping prices under check during the upcoming festive season, the food ministry said

NO CHANGE IN POLICY FOR BASMATI RICE

"Export policy of non-basmati white rice (semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed)... is amended from 'free' to 'prohibited'," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification. However, there is no change in export policy of par-boiled non-basmati rice and basmati rice, which form the bulk of rice exports, the food ministry clarified

HIGH GLOBAL DEMAND FOR INDIAN RICE

- "This will ensure that the farmers continue to get the benefit of remunerative prices in the international market," the ministry added
- "Domestic prices of rice are on an increasing trend. The retail prices have increased by 11.5% over a year and 3% over the past month," it noted
- Exports of the rice variant shot up 35% this year on high global demand

25%

ONE-FOURTH OF TOTAL RICE EXPORTED FROM INDIA IS NON-BASMATI WHITE RICE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Horrific clip sparks national outrage

PM promises full force of the law against offenders in Manipur; CJI warns the SC will act; prime culprit arrested

ANGUISH

What has happened to these daughters of Manipur can never be forgiven. The incident is shameful for any decent society

Narendra Modi, PM

We will give a little time to the government to act, otherwise we will take action if nothing is happening on the ground

D Y Chandrachud, CJI

The issue is not that it's a shame... The issue is the immense pain and trauma inflicted on the women of Manipur

Rahul Gandhi, Cong leader

This anarchy has to stop... It is due to Centre's policies that the country is burning... Heartbroken and outraged

Mamata Banerjee, Bengal CM

Where is our collective conscience? The hate and venom are uprooting the very soul of humanity

M K Stalin, Tamil Nadu CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

A day after a video showing two tribal women being paraded naked and groped in public by a mob in Manipur went viral, there was widespread outrage across the nation — from the executive and Parliament to the judiciary and beyond.

An appalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared his anguish, calling it a shameful act for any society. "The law with all its might will go after them. I assure the countrymen that not even a single culprit will be spared," he said.

In the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud took suo motu cognisance of the video and cracked the whip, directing the Centre and the Manipur government to either book the perpetrators or step aside to enable the judiciary to take action. "Using women as an instrument in an area of communal strife to perpetuate gender violence is unacceptable," he said.

The National Commission for Women, too, suo motu asked Manipur's police chief to take immediate action.

In Manipur, the police arrested the main culprit on Thursday. Later in the day, an enraged mob torched his house. Local media reported the arrest of another accused but it could not be officially confirmed. The outrageous incident occurred on May 4 at B Phainom village in the Kangpokpi district. One Thangboi Vaiphei had lodged two complaints — one with Kangpokpi district police on May 18 and another with Thoubal district police on June 21 — on the incident.

Members of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum at a protest rally over the parading of women naked, in Churachandpur district of Manipur; and (inset) main culprit Huirem Herodas Meitei | PTI/ANI

NHRC issues notice to Manipur govt, police

The National Human Rights Commission on Thursday issued a notice to the Manipur government and the state's police chief over two women being paraded naked by a mob. The NHRC, in a statement, also demanded to know the steps taken or proposed to be taken to safeguard human rights of the citizens.

No business could be transacted in Parliament as both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned amid ruckus and sloganeering by the Opposition, demanding a debate on Manipur in the presence of the prime minister. Several members of Lok Sabha gave notices seeking a discussion on Manipur, suspending all other business. They were not satisfied by defence minister Rajnath Singh's response that the debate will be held after the presiding officers decide the date, adding Union home minister Amit Shah will reply in detail in both the Houses.

In the Rajya Sabha, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar allowed notices for a short duration debate but Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge demanded the suspension of all other business so as to take up the discussion on Manipur.

Trinamool Congress' Derek O'Brien echoed him, saying the PM must make a statement. "The PM has to speak on Manipur. We will continue with our demand until the PM speaks on it," he said. P9

Sonia presses Modi for debate on Manipur

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

CONGRESS Parliamentary Party leader Sonia Gandhi on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the Manipur violence in Parliament, in a brief conversation they had ahead of the session.

According to Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, just before the session began, Modi went around to greet all leaders, which is a customary practice. As he reached the Opposition benches, he had a brief conversation with Sonia.

"She told the PM that we want a discussion on Manipur in Parliament. I think the PM had not anticipated it. "Alright, I will see," he said in response," Chowdhury said. "In a way, the session began today with a demand by Mrs Gandhi herself, on behalf of the Opposition," Chowdhury added.

Earlier in the day, a meeting of the united Opposition decided to demand a statement from Modi on Manipur in both Houses of Parliament. AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet, "The demand of the 26-party I.N.D.I.A is very clear. The Prime Minister should make a statement on the horrific and tragic developments in Manipur since May 3, in both Houses of the Parliament, after which there should be a discussion. This is the first order of business," he said.

BABUS' ROLE IN I.N.D.I.A MEET

BJP MLAs protest the suspension of 10 party lawmakers from the Legislative Assembly in front of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

Seek explanation from govt: BJP, JDS to Guv

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP and most JDS legislators boycotted the Assembly and Council proceedings on Thursday and met the governor with an appeal to him to seek an explanation from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the state government's decision of deputing some IAS officers to receive politicians who attended the recent opposition parties' conclave in the city.

Ten BJP MLAs were suspended by the Speaker after a ruckus over the government's decision in the Assembly on Wednesday.

The legislators also appealed to the governor to issue directions to the government to stop "lowering the status of bureaucrats to servants and protocol officers of politicians and political parties." The memorandum under BJP Legislature Party's letterhead was also signed by former CM HD Kumaraswamy and other JDS legislators, who met the governor along with BJP leaders.

Most of the MLAs and MLCs from BJP and JDS boycotted the proceedings, including the CM's reply to the debate on the budget. Perhaps, for the first time, the opposition benches were vacant when the chief minister was replying to the debate on the budget. They are likely to boycott the proceedings on Friday.

The BJP legislators staged a protest near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Vidhana Soudha and marched to Raj Bhavan. A delegation of BJP and JDS members, including former CM Basavaraj Bommai, Kumaraswamy, BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel, former ministers Araga Jnanendra and HD Revanna, met the governor. P6

HDK too appointed officers, says CM

CM Siddaramaiah said JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy, during his swearing-in ceremony as CM in May 21, 2018, had appointed IAS officer YS Patil to liaison with the then JDS national leader Danish Ali. P6

The 'bhang' chocolates that were seized by Mangaluru police from two petty shops

M'luru cops seize 108kg of 'bhang' chocolates

DIVYA CUTINHO @ Mangaluru

MANGALURU city police on Wednesday seized 108kg of "bhang" chocolates, suspected to be laced with some intoxicants, during raids on two petty shops at Carstreet and Falnir.

Mangaluru city police commissioner Kuldeep Kumar R Jain told *TNIE* that on a tip-off, a police team led by ASI Damodara and constable Sunil Kumar raided a pan shop owned by one Manohar Shet next to Vaibhav Pooja Sales at Carstreet and seized the chocolates which were being sold there.

In another raid, constables Lakshmana Salotagi and Harish KJ seized "bhang" chocolates being sold in a shop run by one Bechan Sonkar near Highland Hospital at Falnir. The value of the seized chocolates has been put at Rs 53,000.

Sources said these chocolates are being sold to school and college students in the city. Jain said some chocolate samples have been sent to the forensic science laboratory (FSL) for tests. Based on the FSL report, further action will be taken.

"Each chocolate costs around Rs 30 and shopkeepers procure them from Uttar Pradesh. The FSL report will reveal whether the chocolates contain intoxicants. Such a huge quantity of intoxicant chocolates were seized here for the first time. These chocolates are sold near hospitals and educational institutions," the commissioner said.

City-based Link De-Addiction Centre administrator Lydia Lobo said such chocolates laced with ganja or other banned substances are easily available in the market.

"It is very dangerous if such chocolates are made available to students. We should create awareness among parents and students about such drug-laced items," she added.

EXPRESS READ

ED arrests Sanjay Raut aide in Covid centre scam

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday arrested businessman Sujit Patkar, a close aide of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut and civic doctor Kishore Bisure in connection with the multi-crore jumbo Covid centre scam. The two were remanded in ED custody till July 27 | P10

CCB INTENSIFIES PROBE

4 grenades seized from terror suspect's house

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CONTINUING their investigation after the arrest of five terror suspects in the city on Wednesday, CCB sleuths recovered four hand grenades from a house at Kodigehalli on Thursday.

The sleuths, who took the suspects into their custody for a week after producing them before a local court on Wednesday, have intensified their investigation. The suspects are being interrogated by two ACPs and six police inspectors.

Zahid Tabrez (accused No 5) of Bhadrappa Layout gave information about the grenades. Junaid Ahmed (accused No 2) from Kanakanagar near Hebbal, who is said to be hiding in one of the Gulf countries, is suspected to have handed over the grenades to Tabrez through one of his associates.

"Officers of CCB along with the bomb detection and disposal squad, and experts from forensic science laboratory went to the house at Kodigehalli and recovered the hand grenades that were hidden inside a secret locker of an almirah. We have information about some more terror suspects," SD Sharanappa, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), told reporters. MORE: P5

NIA interrogates five suspects

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has reportedly stepped in to interrogate the five terror suspects, said informed sources. "It is still too early to say whether the case will be transferred to NIA," added the sources. P5

16 killed in landslide at Maha village

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AT least 16 people were killed after a massive landslide hit Irshalwadi, a remote tribal village in Maharashtra's Raigad district, late on Wednesday night amid torrential rains.

Over 100 people were rescued by the NDRF team, which had to halt search operations on Thursday evening due to downpour.

Irshalwadi is a small hamlet located at the foothill of a mountain. There is no motorable road to reach the location. The region received 499 mm rainfall from July 17 to 19, Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar said.

"Irshalwadi is one of the isolated locations. From the main road, it takes more than two hours to reach the spot, but the NDRF teams and local NGOs and trekkers rushed to the spot, rescued trapped people and pulled out bodies. Forty-eight families were staying in the area, which has a population of 228," Pawar added.

According to reports, the landslide buried as many as 17 houses, with the debris and rubbles mounting up to 15-20 feet. The Maharashtra government has announced ₹5 lakh financial help to the families of the deceased.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who visited the spot by walking for more than an hour, said alternative shelter will be provided to the affected people.

Shinde said authorities were unable to bring adequate machinery to carry out rescue operation due to difficult terrain and bad weather.

Rescuers work at the landslide site in Raigad district, Maharashtra on Thursday | AP

'Not on landslide prone areas list'

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde reached the remote tribal village by walking through a muddy path for more than an hour. "Irshalwadi was not on the list of landslide-prone villages," he said

AGE-OLD CUSTOM

Kadugolla woman, newborn left to fend for themselves

Vasantha with her baby in a makeshift tent at Mallenahalli near Tumakuru

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Tumakuru

AN age-old custom of keeping the mother and her newborn away from home for a couple of months still exists in Kadugolla community.

One such incident came to light a few days ago at Mallenahalli hamlet of Kadugollas in Tumakuru district.

Twenty-year-old Vasantha is now forced to live in a makeshift tent along with her baby girl. Vasantha lost one of her twin babies, a boy, due to some complications during delivery at the district hospital 28 days ago. She was treated as an inpatient in the hospital for 20 days.

After Vasantha's discharge from hospital, she was not taken home. Her husband Siddesh and other elders in their family forced her to live with her baby in the make-shift tent.

As per the age-old custom, the mother and her newborn are supposed to live in a makeshift structure away from home for two months.

Siddesh, a farmer, pitched a makeshift tent at his field near his house. Vasantha's mother visits her regularly. She bathes her daughter and granddaughter. Besides providing food to her daughter, she helps her take care of the baby.

The community members, especially the heads of the hamlet, will penalise those violating this customary practice, according to sources.

The community members believe that women during their postpartum and periods are considered "impure" and violate the sanctity of their deity if they live together or visit temples during this time. Hence, this practice, according to Kadugolla leader GK Naganna. CONTINUED ON: P7